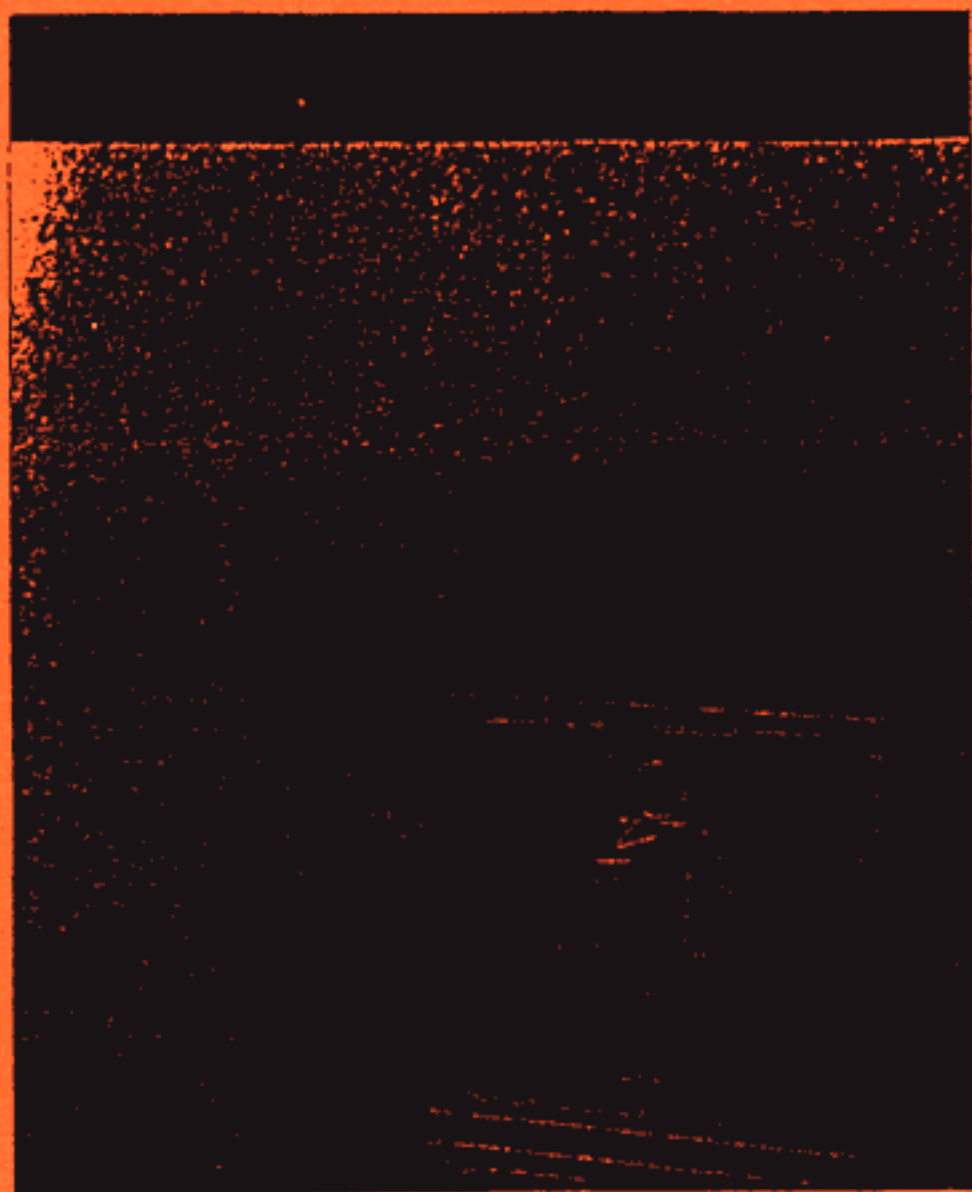


SEXPLANATION

Gender and
Self Awareness
Zine

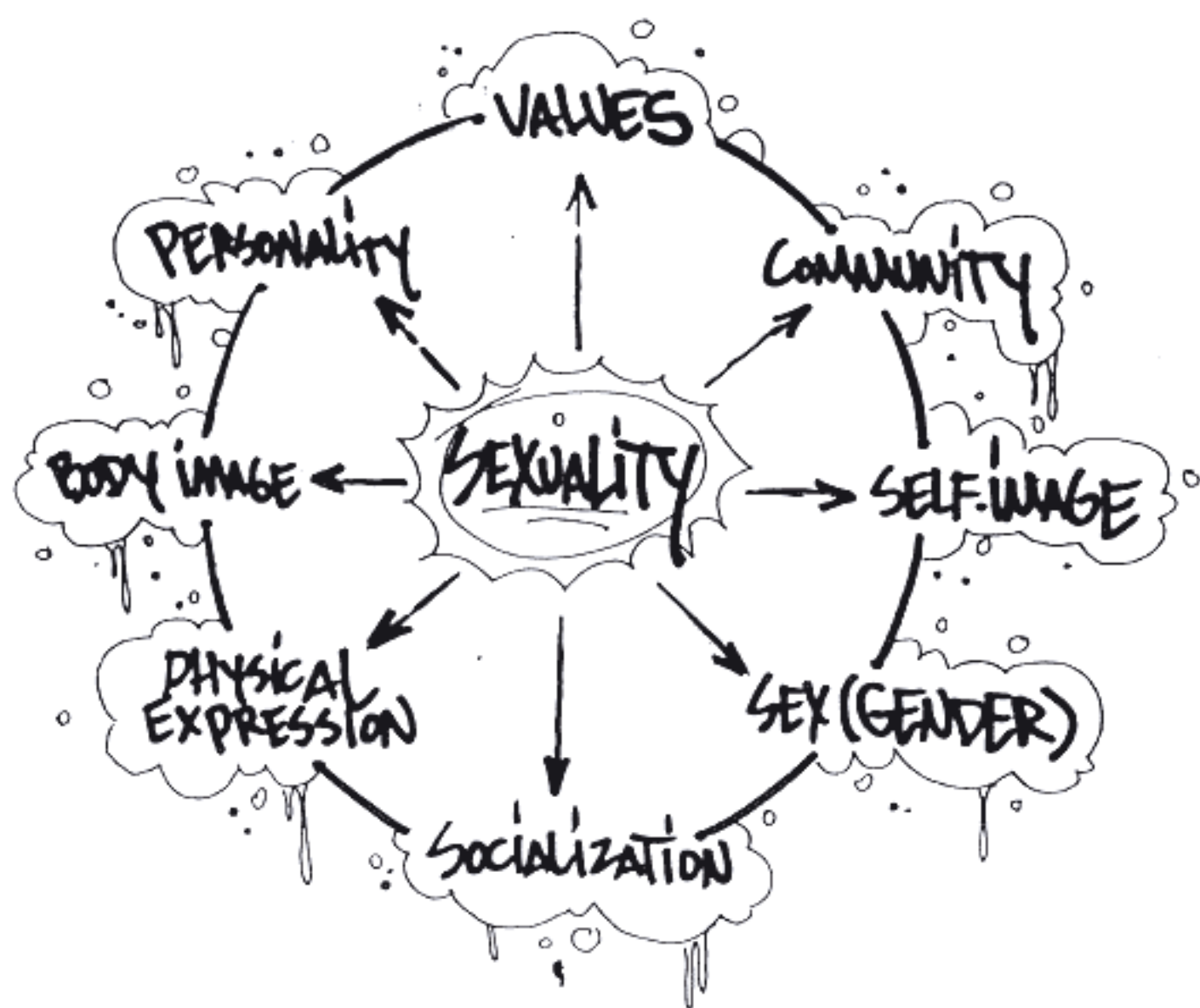




In this society, daily interactions are played out against a backdrop of hierarchy. We meet someone, assess their status and treat them accordingly. In this environment, gender becomes a class system. When people aren't sure whether I'm a man or a woman, they don't know how to treat me. When they think I'm a woman they treat me worse. This is the point where trans liberation and feminism intersect ... and this is where they diverge. Trans people fight a binary, patriarchal system that is handed down and acted out by both men and women. Some feminists have reacted with hostility to the trans movement and put up "womyn-born-womyn-only" signs for their events. Some feminists have been as limited as they are liberated. And as Rikki Ann Wilchins says, some feminists want to know what's in your pants and how long it has been there.

Everyone's gender is subject to change in their lifetime — just like everything else about them. This scares patriarchy and feminists alike.

SEXUALITY WHEEL



SEXUAL IDENTITY AND GENDER IDENTITY GLOSSARY

androgyny: one who is/ the quality of simultaneously exhibiting masculine and feminine characteristics.

bi-gendered: one who switches between masculine and feminine gender roles.

bisexual: one who has significant sexual and romantic attractions to members of both the same and opposite sex, or who identify as members of the bisexual community.

cross dresser: one (regardless of the motivation) who wears clothes, make-up, etc. which are considered (by the culture) appropriate for the other sex but not one's own.

drag (in drag): wearing the clothes considered to be of the opposite gender.

dyke: reclaimed derogatory slang referring to lesbians or bisexual women.

female: one who has a vagina.

feminine: the culturally identified gender role assigned to females.

gay (male/male) (community): one who has significant and romantic attractions primarily to members of the same sex (as oneself), or who identifies as a member of the gay community. Sometimes only refers only to gay males and lesbians. Bisexuals often feel excluded.

gender (identity): a psychological gender role, masculine or feminine.



Through Capitalism,

**Johnny saw the world
with new eyes.**

tools for white guys

written by
Chris Crass

*who are working for social change
and other people socialized in a society based on domination*

1. Practice noticing who's in the room at meetings – how many men, how many women, how many white people, how many people of color, is it majority heterosexual, are there out queers, what are people's class backgrounds. Don't assume to know people, but also work at being more aware.
- 2a. Count how many times you speak and keep track of how long you speak.
- 2b. Count how many times other people speak and keep track of how long they speak.
3. Be conscious of how often you are actively listening to what other people are saying as opposed to just waiting your turn and/or thinking about what you'll say next.
4. Practice going to meetings focused on listening and learning; go to some meetings and do not speak at all.
- 5a. Count how many times you put ideas out to the group.
- 5b. Count how many times you support other people's ideas for the group.
6. Practice supporting people by asking them to expand on ideas and get more in-depth, before you decide to support the idea or not.
- 7a. Think about whose work and contribution to the group gets recognized.
- 7b. Practice recognizing more people for the work they do and try to do it more often.
8. Practice asking more people what they think about meetings, ideas, actions, strategy and vision. White guys tend to talk amongst themselves and develop strong bonds that manifest in organizing. This creates an internal organizing culture that is alienating for most people. Developing respect and solidarity across race, class, gender and sexuality is complex and difficult, but absolutely critical - and liberating.
9. Be aware of how often you ask people to do something as opposed to asking other people "what needs to be done".
10. Think about and struggle with the saying, "you will be needed in the movement when you realize that you are not needed in the movement".
11. Struggle with and work with the model of group leadership that says that the responsibility of leaders is to help develop more leaders, and think about what this means to you.
12. Remember that social change is a process, and that our individual transformation and individual liberation is intimately interconnected with social transformation and social liberation. Life is profoundly complex and there are many contradictions. Remember that the path we travel is guided by love, dignity and respect – even when it is bumpy and difficult to navigate.
13. This list is not limited to white guys, nor is it intended to reduce all white guys into one category. This list is intended to disrupt patterns of domination which hurt our movement and hurt each other. White guys have a lot of work to do, but it is the kind of work that makes life worth living.
14. Day-to-day patterns of domination are the glue that maintain systems of domination. The struggle against capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, heterosexism and the state, is also the struggle towards collective liberation.
15. No one is free until all of us are free. ¶

cult of manhood

written by Jeff Ott

CULT (KLT) N.

1. a. A religion or religious sect generally considered to be extremist or false, with its followers often living in an unconventional manner under the guidance of an authoritarian, charismatic leader. b. The followers of such a religion or sect.
2. A system or community of religious worship and ritual.
3. The formal means of expressing religious reverence; religious ceremony and ritual.
4. A usually nonscientific method or regimen claimed by its originator to have exclusive or exceptional power in curing a particular disease.
5. a. Obsessive, especially faddish, devotion to or veneration for a person, principle, or thing. b. The object of such devotion.
6. An exclusive group of persons sharing an esoteric, usually artistic or intellectual interest.

I recently read a book that got me thinking about what we call manhood. It's called *Refusing to be a Man*, by John Stoltenberg. The basic premise is that what has come to be called manhood is not a naturally occurring phenomenon. I always thought that was the case but I never really thought about how the whole thing was put into place. I couldn't really put it all together in my mind until I stumbled onto the idea of putting the concept of "manhood" into the context of a Cult.

When I was younger I was apprehended by a cult called the O.T.O. or Ordo Templi Orientis. They did the usual cult things to get kids into their cult. They gave out a lot of free pot and speed. They attracted guys with the allure of sex from their women, and visa versa. They presented the promise of being able to reveal the mysteries and secrets of magical power and so on.

Personally I was into the speed and the "free love", so I hung out with them and they happened to move into the house where I was crashing at the time. I was lucky, I was such an addict that I was too interested in getting more dope in my arm, and I never ended up joining them. None the less when I started to back away from them, one of them tried to stab me. Every time I try to question them there are more implied threats of violence/death, even today. The reason I said that I was glad I never joined is because the penalty for unjoining or resignation is supposed to be death.

So any way once I started thinking about my experience with them I realized that it was basically the same experience as the one I had with being socialized into my gender role.

This goes in two stages:

1. Lures and Encouragement
2. Threats of violence or actual violence for lack of compliance

When I was little they tried to lure me into the manhood thing by showing me the advantages it held for me, power over the women, being higher on the hierarchy ladder, etc. They told me lots of lies about why it made sense to not have my emotions. They told me I was good and/or rewarded me when I played with guns and trucks and dirt and sports equipment. There are probably tens of thousands of examples but if you are male I probably don't need to tell you about them cuz you already know. The basic equation is that if you act in accordance with how they defined your gender you get praise and encouragement.

On the other hand if I didn't go along with their brand of manhood a very different reaction would occur. It would usually be something like, "when your father gets home I'm going to tell him and he's going to..." or I would get beaten with something out of the drawer of the kitchen or they would laugh at me in a way to intentionally shame me. If it wasn't my parents and it was my peers or my brother, they would call you a sissy and a faggot and if you didn't immediately disprove that you weren't a sissy then they took that as permission to beat you when ever they felt like it.

So today things aren't much different. Out in the world most of the "men" are still out there trying to prove their "manhood". I've gotten pretty good at avoiding them, but sometimes it's impossible. It's always the same thing, they violate your space until you give some sort of reaction to acknowledge their action, then they do the physical intimidation thing to prove that they don't have to abide by any sort of agreed upon social conduct. The stupid thing is that these are the same asshole's who are constantly verbalizing the American worker's mantra "yes sir, no sir."

kiss your ass sir? oh, of course sir!", at work. They are probably trying to prove their "manhood" all the time because they feel so powerless inside.

I find it most difficult to call people on their sexism when they are people inside the punk scene. I guess I still hold the fear instilled in me that if I question them they will take back their approval of me or that they will publicly question my "manhood" or that they will react violently.

There is this other part of manhood I noticed. It is the structure called hierarchy.

There were once kings. If the king abused, taxed and violated everyone equally no one would tolerate it, they would collectively kick his ass. However if every man was told that he was the king of his own family then he wouldn't have to redirect the abuse back to the original abuser, he could just take it out on his wife and kids. This is the same way that manhood resembles a cult, there is someone at the top who receives all the benefits and privileges. This might sound a little weird but you know what they say.

A man's home is his castle.

Furthermore it hasn't been until lately that some women aren't considered property. Also children are still legally considered property until they are eighteen years old.

So sometimes I get kind of discouraged because sometimes it seems punk is built on a foundation of "manhood" and not much else. It makes me wonder how much I want to invest (emotionally, physically, intellectually) into punk. It all seems like macho guys, subservient worshiping women, stratified classes that include a "ruling class", arena rock star attitudes, etc.

I have been finding it increasingly helpful to try to define for myself what manhood could/should be:

- A man should be emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually available to his partner.
- A man should be emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually available to his children.
- A man should be emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually available to his community.
- A man should strive to nurture his family and his community.
- A man should be responsible for respecting his connection to the Earth and her inhabitants by not harvest-

ing resources beyond his own needs.

- A man should not only be present for his own children but also to the other children in his community.
- In a sexual relationship a man should be primarily concerned with the new life he may be creating rather than his own personal want for sexual release.
- A man should find himself a gender identity through the experience of being a responsible, respectful man rather than proving it with sexual or violent conquest.
- A man should take responsibility for speaking his mind to the other men and not withholding his opinions and feelings on the basis of their common gender.
- A man should act in defense of his family and community in a way that might include violence but does not necessarily include violence.
- A man should abandon the notion of POWER OVER.
- A man should embrace the notion of POWER OF.

Finally, I thought I should reprint the page from John Stoltenberg's book that set the spark in my mind.

"All the time I was growing up, I knew that there was something really problematic in my relationship to manhood. Inside, deep inside, I never believed I was fully male-I never believed I was growing up enough of a man. I believed the someplace out there, in other men, there was something that was genuine authentic all-american manhood-the real stuff-but I didn't have it: not enough of it to convince me anyway, even if I managed to be fairly convincing to those around me. I felt like an impostor, like a fake. I agonized a lot about not feeling male enough, and I had no idea then how much I was not alone.

Then I read those words-those words that suggested to me for the first time that the notion of manhood is a cultural delusion, a baseless belief, a false front, a house of cards. It's not true. The category I was trying so desperately to belong to, to be a member of in good standing-it doesn't exist. Poof. Now you see it, now you don't. Now you're terrified your not really part of it; now your free, you don't have to worry anymore. However removed you feel inside from "authentic manhood", it doesn't matter. What matters is the center inside of yourself-and how you live, and how you treat people, and what you can contribute as you pass through life on this earth, and how honestly you love, and how carefully you make choices. Those are the things that really matter. Not whether you're a real man. There's no such thing." ¶

GENDER ORIENTATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: As you encounter gendered others in your daily life, not always referring to lovers or romantic partners, does there seem to be a pattern to the way that you relate to that person non-verbally? Answer the following questions...and allow them to fit your circumstances.

1. How far do you normally stand from a person of the opposite gender?
2. Do you usually face the person directly? Is a pattern?
3. Do members of the opposite sex generally lean toward you or try to stand close to you? Why do you think of either of this situations occur?
4. Can you remember whether your senses came into play in your evaluation of the other person? Smell, touch or hear?
5. Do you permit members of the opposite sex touch you if you do not know them? Why or why not?
6. Would you describe your style as immediacy, or inclusive of the other, or as fairly exclusive of the other, or somewhere in between?
7. Do you behave in-differently of the same gender as you do in cross-gender situations? If not, what would be the differences?
8. Do you change your body display when you know others are watching you? If so, how?



Transgendered: Anyone who breaks the rules of gender.

Gender: A mucky malleable substance found between the ears (as distinct from "sex," which is found between the legs).

*Real: What your gender is until the moment you realize you've been performing it ... then it becomes drag.**

*Credit to Rikki Ann Wilchins for this one.



Can feminism see more than two genders? Can I? If I already know that there are boys with cunts and chicks with dicks ... and people with both ... If I already know that man and woman are impossible to define ... then how can I draw strength in a movement that relies on the existence of ... and difference between, boy, and girl?

SELF AWARENESS, SELF OBSERVATION.

Self Observation is the act of analyzing ourselves in respect to how we go about our daily lives. There is something to be said about how we engage with others in a subconscious way that exhibits our inner selves.

What does your inner self have to say about you?

- 1. Do you tend to lean forward or backward in conversations with others?
Either way, what difference does it make?**
- 2. Do you try to make eye contact with all the members of the group
As you engage with them? If not, why?**
- 3. Do people address you more than you address them?
If so, why do you think this is so? If not why?**
- 4. Do you think your body presence and behavior influences
The way that others act in the group? If so, how?**
- 5. Would age and authority or gender and ethnicity of the leader of
a group influence your non-verbal behavior? If so, how?**
- 6. Are you a take charge person? A shy person? How do you use
your body in either situation?**
- 7. Are you comfortable sitting next to the seat of power in a group?
If not, why? If so, why?**
- 8. If the group has met several times, do you tend to sit
in the same spot each time? If so, why do think you do?**

Directions:

Agree or disagree with the following statements by selecting a number between 1-5 in the blank. One means you agree with the statement fully and five, you totally disagree. The numbers between 1 and 5 are therefore relevant accordingly.

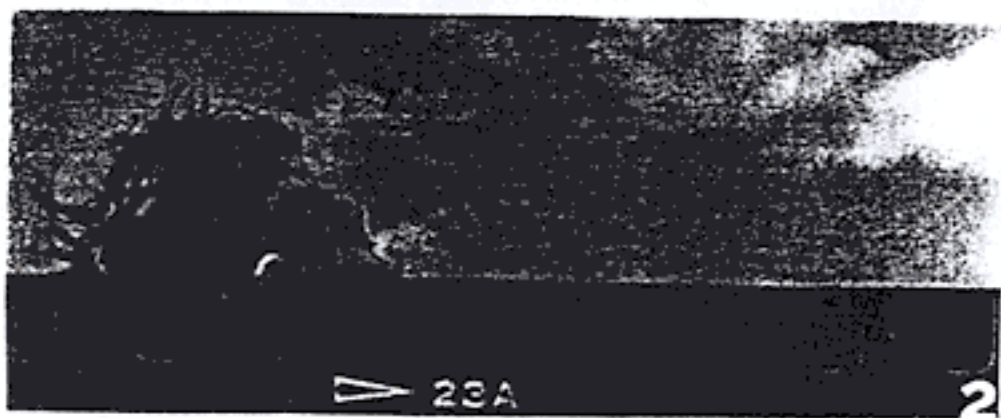
There is no correct answer, although as you evaluate your responses you may conclude that you may want to work on one aspect or the other.

1. I have an attractive body.....
2. Others tell me, or imply, that I am attractive.....
3. I groom myself quite often to be attractive.....
4. I know how to wear clothes to make me look attractive.....
5. I care about what others think about my body.....
6. I am aware of how I use my body "language".....
7. I am careful to not intrude on other people's space.....
8. I am sensitive to touch.....
9. I feel "natural", not nervous, in public.....
10. I feel that I am a skilled non-verbal communicator.....

A QUESTION FOR FEMINISM



I was born female and sometimes I call myself a boy, and wear boys' clothes, and use the boys' washroom. This needs no more explanation than someone who is born male. Everyone's gender is an expression of self ... a performance ... a show. We are all in drag.



Can feminism celebrate with us when we have the courage to transform?



THE USE OF LANGUAGE

Attraction: includes emotional, intellectual, spiritual, physical, and sexual (similar to physical attraction, but it could be possible for someone to find someone else physically attractive but not desire to have a sexual relationship with that person) attraction. Most often, people are attracted to others based on more than one of the attractive levels.

Bisexual: to be a man or a woman and to have feelings of attraction and affection, both emotionally and physically, to both men and women.

GLBT: (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered) a term encompassing all non-heterosexual orientations.

Heterosexism: the belief that everyone is heterosexual.

Heterosexuality: to have feelings of affection and attraction, both mentally and physically to people of the opposite gender.

Homophobia: any negative belief, feeling or action directed against non-heterosexual persons or stimuli including gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered individual.

Homosexuality: to have feelings of affection and attraction, emotionally and physically to people of the same gender.
Related terms: gay and lesbian.

Transgendered: Transgendered is an umbrella term, relating to how some individuals express their gender identity. For some it might mean changing their gender, perhaps surgically; for others, to dress in the clothing of the "opposite" gender; for some, to be free to express themselves as neither male or female; and, for others it means having been born with ambiguous genitalia.



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